

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, January 30, 2003**

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Alicia Silva, Carl Seitz, and Paul Pronold.  
Sandy Wolff arrived at 1:03 p.m. **Absent:** Mareth Kipp

**Also Present :** Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Legislative Director Craig Thompson, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, Intake & Support Services Manager Don Maurer, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Ernie Messinger, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, and Public Health Manager Nancy Healy -Haney.

### **Approve Minutes of January 16, 2003**

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve the minutes of January 16. Motion carried 5-0.

Sandy Wolff arrived at 1:03 p.m.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

Herro advised the next committee meeting was scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> and that Vice -Chair Wolff will chair the meeting in his absence. At that meeting, Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary will give updates on the transportation and nutrition programs.

### **Review Correspondence**

Copies of a letter dated January 20, 2003 from Bellovary were distributed. Due to increased staff time and a strain on the transportation program overall, the department will no longer pre -authorize rides for transportation prior to certification, for taxi, Rideline, and ADA passengers.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Herro advised of the following issues that will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

- Approve the appropriation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program income.
- Discuss the Airport/Exposition Center study.
- Approve the receipt and expenditure of federal funds to enhance automation activities of the Federated Library System member libraries, and discuss library system automation.
- Discuss the Public Safety Foundation of America grant application for the Waukesha County Communications Center capital project.
- Review proposed County Code updates.

### **Announcements**

Messinger announced that the Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will be held on May 14, 15, and 16 at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. Additional information and registration forms will be forthcoming.

Esler said the Rideline paratransit services contract will be awarded to Medacare Vans, Inc., different than the current vendor. The contract for mass transit administration services will be awarded to the City of Waukesha. Both will be on the Finance Committee agenda for February 5 to approve the contract procurement process.

### Meeting Approvals

**MOTION:** Wolff moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve attendance for any committee members wanting to attend the WCHSAS Spring Conference and Annual Meeting May 14, 15, and 16. Motion carried 6 - 0. Wolff noted that a Health & Human Services Committee meeting was scheduled for May 15.

### Advisory Committee Reports

Wolff said she attended the WCA Health & Human Services Steering Committee meeting yesterday. Among the items discussed was the human services redesign proposal.

### Discuss WCA Proposal for Redesigning Wisconsin's Human/Social Service Delivery System

Thompson said WCA believes the State has an obligation to fund programs that it mandates but exactly how much is an unanswerable question because the system has been set up so ambiguously. No matter how good the intentions, it's fundamentally flawed in the way it's set up. The first thing the redesign group looked at was the current system which everyone agreed is broken.

Thompson said the State Statutes dictate that counties are responsible for the care, treatment, and well-being of the developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and other dependent populations. This is very broad and it doesn't list any criteria for how much should be provided, etc. The Statutes also read that counties are responsible to the extent that federal, state, and required county matching dollars are available. This is where the mandate ends. Thompson said the required county match for community aids is almost 10%. Often, the courts dictate programming whether or not the match amount has been met because they have no idea how much has been spent on a client. Every cent over this amount is considered over-match. When he tells legislators they need to fund the programs counties are carrying out in the area of human services, the argument he gets back is that any funds spent above that amount is discretionary and was the county's choice. Often, waiting lists are established because the state hasn't given the counties enough funding. At this point there's no accountability and people get frustrated.

The current system can't show where that money went, who it helped, and what the outcome was on a person-by-person basis. There is a complete disconnect between youth aids, community aids, etc. as to how much the state is going to give counties and the cost to utilize those services. One of the redesign group's recommendations is to tie those two together—how much money is to be spent, who should we serve, and at what level. The COP program has been relatively more successful with the legislature because of the concept which is basically funding per individual or slot. The group has proposed that the State set up statewide criteria for both functional eligibility and the financials no matter where you live in the state and whether or not you get service, it's based on the level of need, not based on what time of the year you came in for services (could have been late in the year and the money was already spent). If a person meets the state-established criteria, they will receive funding for services.

Thompson referred to Schuler's question, how would the rate be determined and at what percentage? He said the group talked about this in depth and at this point, they don't know. Most of the recommendations are conceptual at this point and before implementation, many issues that need to be worked out and the rates issue was key. However, the rate would be assigned to an individual and shared between the State and the County. The cost for service would be established by a rate-setting commission which would be set up by the State. Rates could vary from one area of the state to the next. Could the State, under the new system, set the rates whereby they do not cover the cost of service for those who are eligible? Thompson said, yes, this could still occur. While the State's in charge and while we're the subordinates, he didn't think we'd ever get past this. However, the new proposal makes it much more understandable and more clear whereby we could have a logical argument about where that rate is at. Currently, it's very confusing. Why would the State want to do something like this? There are political reasons why they may not want to, but if we're sincere with the policy, we have given the State the ability to control costs. Eligibility will be set at a level that everyone agrees is affordable. If a county wants to provide services above that level, that would be their decision.

Thompson said responses to the proposal by various groups and agencies have been positive for the most part although many have the same question. Again, this is just a concept on the funding side and the timetable for statewide implementation is not until 2007. All they're asking for in this biennium is the go-ahead from the Department and that they're in agreement with the group's direction and goals. The whole process is going to take a lot of work. Seitz asked Schuler if the proposal was something his department would support. Schuler said, yes, you want to have a funding mechanism that's scientifically based around costs as well as a benefit package that's clearly identified and agreed upon. Schuler said it was important to all work together, statewide, to come up with the correct answers and that Waukesha County would want to be a part of this. Referring to the concern that nobody from Waukesha County was asked to serve on the redesign group, Thompson noted that WCHSA's looking at adding more county representation.

The committee recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at the Public Health Center.

#### **Educational Overview of the Public Health Division Including the Lead Screening Program and a Tour of the Facility**

The committee toured the facility including the client processing area, information and referral center, clinic rooms, WIC and Prenatal Care Coordination, Assurance Section, Risk Control Section, and the Communicable Disease Control Section. Healy-Haney reviewed their 2002 report which included information on number of clients served in each area. Other information distributed were the organization chart, "Good Health for All - About our public health department," the Waukesha County Health Report Card, Public Health Division services, services available at various outreach clinics, etc. Healy-Haney reviewed their 2003 budget of \$2,863,507, the majority of which funds community assurance programs (\$2.18 million) for high risk populations.

Public Health's essential services and core functions are community disease assessment and surveillance, public policy development on population health issues, and community assurance to provide or locate preventative disease control programs. The Maternal Health programs are Prenatal Care Coordination, Pregnancy Care Coordination, WIC Pregnant/Post Partum and Breastfeeding Mothers, and High Risk Maternal. Adult Health Programs are High Risk Geriatric, High Risk Medically Compromised Adult, and Adult Health Screenings. There are also the Family Health Clinic that includes adult and child physical health examinations. There is a total of 39.94 Public Health staff which includes 18 public health nurses, 1 epidemiologist, 4 management staff, 11 other, and 5.94 part-time or on-call staff.

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Seitz to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva  
Secretary